

**Minutes
Commonwealth of Virginia
State Board of Social Services**

**Montgomery County Government Center
755 Roanoke Street
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073**

August 20-21, 2008

Members Present

Trudy Brisendine, Brenda Hornsby, Danny Brown, Maggi Luca, and Shirley Culpepper

Members Absent

Peppy Linden
Bela Sood

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Trudy Brisendine.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair recognized Board members Danny Brown-Western Region; Brenda Hornsby-Central Region; Maggi Luca-Northern Region; Shirley Culpepper-Tidewater Region and staff, Commissioner Conyers, Margaret Schultz, Richard Martin, Al Wilson, and Pat Rengnerth.

Bela Sood and Peppy Linden were unable to attend this meeting due to prior commitments.

Ms. Brisendine advised that Michelle Larkin –Tidewater Region was recently appointed to the Board but due to a prior commitment would not be at this meeting.

Local Director Linda Nisbet welcomed the Board to Montgomery County and invited everyone to attend a reception at 4 p.m. today in the Board's honor. An office tour of her agency was announced for Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

The Chair shared a news article on the death of retired State Senator Joseph V. Gartlan from Northern Virginia. She spoke of the passion he brought to his human services work during his 28 years in the Virginia Senate.

REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Richard Martin, Manager of the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs reviewed the meeting agenda.

Board Survey and Proposed FY 2009 Initiatives

Proposed initiatives for the Board's work in FY 2009 were presented by Ms. Brisendine and Ms. Hornsby. A copy of this handout is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

Reduction Plan

A copy of Governor Kaine's 2008 Reduction Plan was provided to members.

Regulatory Status Report

Richard Martin shared a copy of the Status of Regulations Report with members. There are 64 total regulations or potential regulations in place with 27 currently active. A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

Auxiliary Grant Portability Study Pilot

Heidi Dix, Assistant Secretary of HHR provided an update on the Auxiliary Grant Portability Study Pilot directed by the VA General Assembly two years ago. The deadline for completion of this study is November 1. The program would permit people using an Auxiliary Grant to live in their own homes or a small apartment buildings (meeting Code) rather than only at an Assisted Living Facility (ALF).

The proposed criteria for participation includes living in an ALF for more than 3-6 months; receiving an Auxiliary Grant; receiving Medicaid funded mental health support and case management services provided by the Community Services Boards; meeting Residential Assisted Living level of care criteria and the CSB determination that resident is a good candidate for living in the community. The CBS must also develop a care plan to ensure that needs can be met.

Priority will be given to those meeting all of the above who reside in facilities that have given notice of closure or of discontinuing acceptance of AG recipients. Consideration is being given to capping the number of pilot participants and expenditures to ensure budget neutrality.

A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

A draft of this plan will be distributed to Board members prior to the October meeting for discussion. For additional information, please contact Richard Martin or Pat Rengnerth and your questions will be forwarded to Ms. Dix for response.

Division of Family Services

Paul McWhinney, Director for the Division of Family Services was introduced to the Board. Commissioner Conyers said he was excited to have Mr. McWhinney back at the state level. Mr. McWhinney spoke on Virginia's Service System Transformation and provided an update on the Council of Reform (COR). A copy of this presentation is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment

Stephanie Gray, first Vice President of VA Benefit Programs Organization to Promote Eligibility as a Profession (BPRO) advised she was replacing Arlene Hamilton as a liaison to the Board. Members welcomed Ms. Gray and sent their best wishes to Ms. Hamilton.

Brandon Patterson-Director of PAPPAS spoke to the Board on the Ex-Offender Registry. He advised his organization and DSS had excellent partner collaboration. Over 17,000 people are served each year. An estimated 86,000 are expected to be incarcerated by the year 2012.

Local Boards and Directors of Social Services

Tony Fritz, Director of Western Region introduced local directors and members of local boards that were present.

Linda Nisbet, Director of Montgomery County Department of Social Services provided the following public comment:

There are several issues that I would like to bring to your attention, most of which concern child welfare; plus two from benefit programs.

In Child Welfare one issue is the current barrier crimes law for approval of foster parents. The law now reads that the foster parent applicant cannot have a conviction of more than one misdemeanor not including barrier crimes, and that ten years have elapsed following the conviction. We have more than one potential foster parent with two misdemeanor convictions arising from the same incident when the person was in his late teens, and twenty years of responsible citizenship have followed. I have been told that private agencies can request a waiver when they come upon these circumstances, but public DSS agencies cannot. We have a difficult time recruiting foster homes, yet cannot be approved. I request that the State Board, as a policy issue, direct VDSS to request legislation for the 2009 session that will give local agencies that ability to request a waiver of this requirement, or to have the discretion, with appropriate documentation, to waive this requirement when a person's behavior subsequent to the misdemeanor has been exemplary for more than ten years.

A second current issue for local agencies is the mandate to do monthly visits to foster children in their residences beginning October 1. As you may recall, when the Program Improvement Plan to meet CFSR goals was developed, the VADSS personnel met with representatives of the League of Social Service Executives to put a cost on resources needed to do that. A conservative estimate was more than \$26 million. One of the large cost drivers was the need to do monthly visitation. Since that time, the General Assembly has appropriated approximately 18 percent of the needed funding. Meanwhile, locals have been asked to provide improved independent living services to teens up to the age of 21 without additional funding being provided; we have been asked to track teens who age out of the system and do quarterly reports on their status for a year after leaving; there have been several requests that local staff research records for information that is not available or is erroneous in the OASIS system; there have been extensive changes in the administration of IV-E foster care, necessitating training time for, and additional documentation by staff; there are added service plan requirements; and we are asked to do intensive planning for community services to keep

children out of residential placement. There have been no additional resources for any of these additional tasks. I am concerned that if Montgomery County social workers make a strong attempt to accomplish monthly visits to our foster children who are all over Virginia and some out of state, that the other real services that they need to be reunited with kin or successfully transition to other family care will be slighted. I would rather slight the monthly visits. We need to continue to work in the best interests of the children and this mandate, without resources to accomplish it, may actually detract from other best practices for the children.

Another large issue for child welfare is planning for a pandemic flu epidemic. We at Montgomery County DSS have received little help from the state office on disaster planning in general (with the exception of Food Stamps), but we are working with our county on planning for most disasters. However, planning for child welfare in case of pandemic flu is a problem that is entirely unique to DSS agencies, and it is of overwhelming proportions. We would appreciate guidance from the state, as all local agencies will encounter the same problems. If a pandemic comes, will families be willing to keep a foster child if that child comes down with flu? What if the rest of the family is not infected? What if the family is infected, but the child is not? What if the entire family including the child is infected? What about children in residential settings? Foster children are the Commonwealth's children, but I fear that they will be no one's children if there is a pandemic. We must plan for all the different contingencies that may come up if a pandemic occurs. Although the potential problems are alarmingly clear to me, the solutions are not. And as I said, this issue will be statewide, if it occurs.

The last child welfare issue is comparatively small, but to me is aggravating and disheartening. We have received guidance from VADSS that meals for foster children cannot be reimbursed when taken outside of their placements. We have had several instances of needing to feed a foster child when traveling to explore placements, or to visit family, or when the child is received into care suddenly and does not yet have a placement. I understand that Title IV-E will not reimburse those meals and realize that that is federal and not up to our state. However, we are told that these meals have to be local-only funding, which I don't understand. The Commissioner is fond of saying that these are Virginia's children, but it seems now that if they are hungry they are not. It is up to the state to decide how to spend state and local foster care monies, so I do not understand why a child's meal is not reimbursable if there is adequate reason why he cannot be fed in his residence. As I said, it is a small issue, but coming on top of the mandate to do monthly visits without resources, it feels like an abandonment of the kids and local agencies all the same.

There are two benefit program issues that I would like to address. One is the error rates and the best practices. Montgomery County DSS has an excellent performance record, so this is not about excuses for current practice. But because of the size of our Food Stamp caseload, we have been included in the Big 20, Next ten conferences on Food Stamp error rates. At each conference we hear about best practices from other states that have reduced their errors in all types of benefit cases. These best practices always include changes in automated systems that make it easier to track information coming in from clients, or that guard against

some of the common ways that errors occur. Sometimes the best practices also include changes in how personnel are balanced between counties, or additions to personnel in local quality control positions. But each time we see these practices demonstrated we are told that we will not get changes to automated systems or increase in personnel any time in the foreseeable future. It has gotten to the place that conference attendees have asked not to be shown best practices that we are not allowed to have any more. My point here is that it is extremely difficult to reduce errors when caseloads are rising, documentation requirements continually increase, and resources for best practices are unavailable. We need extensive changes to the benefit programs automated systems in order to keep up with our work.

Showing us best practices in either benefit programs or in service programs simply increases our frustration level if there are no resources to adopt them. The second benefit program issue and my last issue is the coming heating fuel season. The benefits for this year's program are very likely to be too low to pay for the minimum delivery of fuel oil for those who rely on that for heat. In addition, we will likely have more people applying for assistance.

We had almost twice as many applicants for the recent cooling program as we had last year. I think that localities need to make contingency plans to shelter families if we have extremely cold weather for more than one or two nights. The Governor and General Assembly may need to be warned that this could become a political issue if anyone actually freezes this winter.

I realize that this is an extensive list of concerns, but I hope it will convey the frustration level in local agencies continues to rise. We understand that there are funding constraints and that the competition for state funding is harsh. I think that what we would like to see is a stronger collaboration between the state office and the League to present our needs to the General Assembly to obtain some of the resources that are needed to serve our customers. I know that there are political considerations, but as the agency mandated by the state to care for Virginia's foster children and poor citizens, VADSS needs to be a stronger advocate for them.

Local Boards and Directors of Community Action Agencies

Comments provided during public forum

Virginia League of Social Services Executives' (VLSSE)

Susan Clark, first Vice President of the VLSSE advised that as the economy becomes stressed, local DSS doors open wider. She advised that the Food Stamp caseload is up to 34% of all households in Galax. Many people are employed but underpaid.

She advised that CSA expenditures took a big hit at local levels.

Regarding the consolidation area, she advised Carl Ayes is heading up the initiative and the League is anxious to share information that is relative to consolidation.

Ms. Clark reported local agencies are gearing up for the foster care visit requirements but advised that funding is not available to cover the costs. Many of these children from the western region are in placements in the eastern region.

Regarding FAMIS, the League continues to work with Mr. Steinhauser and Commissioner Conyers on one-stop issues.

The League is also currently working on initiatives and issues related to class compensation.

Ms. Clark advised the League is working on adult service issues and is anxious about the AG portability study

In closing, Ms. Clark applauded the Department and Commissioner Conyers for the collaborative spirit they share and thanked the Board for time on the agenda to share League concerns.

Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP)

Jim Schuyler, Director introduced members of the Community Action Agencies in attendance.

He reported he had recently testified before a State Legislative Committee on the need for additional funds for the expansion of community action agencies statewide. The Western Region of Virginia is fully capped and there is good collaboration with local DSS agencies and nonprofits. This model shows how other uncapped areas of the state could be effective if funds are available to establish community action agencies throughout Virginia.

Mr. Schuyler commended the Prisoner Re-entry Program. He stated this advised this program works with people before they are released and has significant successes.

Mr. Schuyler commented that two CAA directors attending the Commissioner's Roundtable on Tuesday evening.

He reminded that people have until October 15 to apply for the National Economic Stimulus. Community action agencies are currently spreading the word.

The 2008 Common Sense Conference will be held in Bethesda Maryland on September 4 and 5. Mr. Schuyler will provide information in October.

Mr. Schuyler spoke about the State Information Tech. Consortium that assists partners with tax preparations. Fifty thousand dollars will be available over the next three years. VACAP is currently reviewing the kind of services can be offered. This will be discussed further at the conference.

Commissioner's Report

Financial Report- Commissioner Conyers reported that the Governor approved \$49 million in budget cuts, which will include the elimination of the Care Givers Grant Program (a non-mandated service). He further advised that DSS lost two people in the agency due to cuts. Travel, office supplies, etc. will be cut and staffers will not be attending conferences. There will be at least one more round of cuts.

Research Report-The Commissioner advised that best practices are always being reviewed. Eric Beecroft will speak about significant work that is being accomplished at a future meeting. He mentioned that 50 DSS directors across the country provided documentation outlining best practices and real human service needs to the Platform Committees of both major political parties. This information will be shared as soon as it's available.

Child and Family Services Review- the Commissioner stated that a CORE update will be provided today and a more in-depth presentation will be made at the October meeting.

Consolidation Study-Staff is working to continue the transition from Bo Harris (retiring) to Ms. Isbell. The Study is due in the fall.

North Highland Report- The Secretary of HHR contracted with North Highland Group to look at the three largest agencies (Health, MJHMRSAS, and DSS) and assess the need for improvements. They will examine the structure of the agencies to see if they should be reorganized to streamline functions.

The Commissioner appointed staff liaisons to the Board's committees: Children's Committee-Paul McWhinney; Adult Committee-Margaret Schultze; Poverty Committee-Marianne McGhee; and Dottie Wells will be the liaison for the Strategy Management Planning Committee.

In response to questions at the commissioner's Roundtable, the Commissioner reported the Hornsby Zeller Report draft would be sent to the Admin Committee within the next ten days.

It was advised that Kim McCoy resigned her position in the Office of Comprehensive Services and is accepting a position in VDSS.

It was reported that Paul McWhinney will begin to focus on fatherhood initiative programs and will speak more on this initiative at the Board's December meeting.

Food and Nutrition Act of 2008

Tom Steinhauer, Director of TANF provided a briefing on the major provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008-the Farm Bill. A copy of this presentation is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Culpepper) and seconded (Ms. Hornsby) moved to approve the Minutes from the June 18-19, 2008 meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

FY 2009 Initiatives

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Ms. Luca) move to approve the Proposed Initiatives for FY 2009 for the State Board of Social Services as presented. (A copy attached to the official minutes housed in central office). Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion

Mr. Brown felt it would be beneficial to have all members present to vote on this Initiative. The Chair advised this is a fluid document and can be changed when needed.

22VAC40-90 Background Checks for Assisted Living Facilities and Adult Day Care Centers—Periodic Review and Retain

This action will complete the periodic review as required by § 2.2-4017 and Executive Order 36 (2006). Families should have increased confidence in the safety of their vulnerable adult family members in assisted living facilities and adult day care centers as a result of this regulation that contains requirements for background checks for personnel in those facilities. The department recommends that this regulation be retained without change.

Discussion

Ms. Luca questioned if the 18 year-old issue was included. Mr. Martin advised it would not be, unless the Juvenile Criminal Background Code in VA changes.

Ms. Hornsby shared her concern that a volunteer can be left alone with a client. It was advised that if a volunteer is solely on their own with a person, they must have a background check; if they are working in the presence of someone who already has a background check and not being left alone with the person, then the volunteer in question does not require a check.

It was advised that all volunteers in children's facilities must have a background check.

Ms. Hornsby said this could be a tremendous potential risk with the word "permission" included.

Via telephone conference, Leslie Knachel advised she will take this concern and pass it along to the work group and it will be discussed. Ms. Brisendine advised she looked forward to the polished version of this with the wording corrected on the "permission element."

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Culpepper) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve the Periodic Review report for submission to the Department of Planning and Budget and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources(with the wording correction on the

permission element) as required by the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006). Motion carried with all in favor.

Local Departments of Social Services Employee Salary and Compensation with Contingency

Renee Fleming-Mills, Human Resource Director and Nancy Flanagan, HR Manager with the Division of Human Resource Management recommended approval of compensation plans from Accomack, Alleghany-Covington, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Bath, Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Culpeper, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fluvanna, Frederick, Goochland, Greensville/Emporia, Halifax, Henry-Martinsville, Hopewell, Isle of Wight, King & Queen, King George, Lancaster, Lee, Matthews, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Northampton, Northumberland, Page, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Russell, Shenandoah County, Smyth, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and Tazewell Counties.

Discussion (HR staff were on hand via telephone conference call to answer questions.)

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Ms. Hornsby) moved to approve the requests to exceed salary position maximums. As indicated in the Code, any compensation in excess of the reimbursable maximums shall be paid from federal and local funds. Motion carried with all in favor.

22VAC40-601 Food Stamp Program—Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

The proposed amendments will alter the length of time an applicant for food stamp benefits may be held pending before processing.

Discussion None

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Culpepper) and seconded (Ms. Hornsby) moved to approve the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to amend 22VAC40-601 entitled Food Stamp Program for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006). Motion carried with all in favor.

22VAC40-12-Public Participation Guidelines—Exempt Final Action

This action will repeal the existing regulation and establish a new regulation 22VAC40-12 entitled Public Participation Guidelines. This action is required by Chapter 321, 2008 of Assembly. The public participation guidelines were developed as a model by the Department of Planning and Budget in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General.

Discussion: None

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Ms. Hornsby) moved to approve the exempt final regulatory package for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order 36 (2006) and the Administrative Process Act. This regulatory action will become effective January 1, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

22VAC40-12-Public Participation Guidelines-Delegation of Authority

The model regulation allows the “agency” and in the case of this proposed regulation, the “agency” is the State Board of Social Services, the authority to delegate certain actions to state employees. Members were provided with a copy of the Delegation of Authority that assigns those actions that have been historically performed by staff of the Department of Social Services to the Commissioner and his designees. Senior Assistant Attorney General Allen Wilson has reviewed and approved the suggested delegation of authority.

Discussion: Ms. Brisendine shared her concern over the public hearing process. It was confirmed that this doesn’t remove any authority from the SBSS to hold a public hearing.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Culpepper) and seconded (Ms. Luca) moved to approve the Delegation of Authority to become effective January 1, 2009. Motion carried with all in favor.

22VAC40-25-Auxilliary Grant Program—Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

The proposed amendments will clarify and simplify requirements for assisted living facilities to document proper handling of Auxiliary Grant funds and Auxiliary Grant recipients’ personal needs allowances; establish a residency requirement for Auxiliary Grant applicants; and ensure that the regulation conforms to current Virginia Department of Social Services’ licensing and assessment regulations.

At the June 18, 2008 meeting of this Board, members approved a fast-track action to amend the audit requirements of this regulation. The Department of Planning and Budget deemed that fast-track action to be inappropriate.

Discussion: None

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Mr. Culpepper) moved to approve the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to amend 22VAC40-25, entitled Auxiliary Grant Program for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006) and approve the withdrawal of the fast-track action to amend the fiscal reporting requirements of this regulation. Motion carried with all in favor.

22VAC40-72, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities-Fast Track Action

The proposed amendments coordinate the regulation with administrator licensure regulations of the Virginia Board of Long-Term Care Administrators and the medication aide registration regulation of the Virginia Board of Nursing.

Discussion: There was discussion regarding the recommendation to remove Syrup of Ipecac from within another licensed program. Members wanted to ensure the Health Department concurred with this removal. Ms. McGreal advised that no one in an ALF facility has used this syrup in years.

Ms. Hornsby questioned the test for med aide techs. Mr. Martin advised that if someone fails the first time, there is no timeframe restriction on taking the test over. There was much discussion on this issue. Mr. Brown advised we are objecting to something that is not in our control but under the control of the Board of Nursing. Further discussion on medication aid training will continue at a future meeting.

ON MOTIOM DULY MADE (Mr. Brown) and seconded (Mr. Culpepper) moved to approve the fast track proposed action to amend 22VAC40-72, Standards for Licensed Assisted Living Facilities for publication in the Virginia Register subject to approval under the provisions of Excecutive Order Number 36 (2006) and authorize our Regulatory Coordinator to immediately file a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to initiate this action if, during executive review, it is deemed that this action is not appropriate for the fast track process. Motion carried with all in favor.

RECESS AT 4:15 P.M.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008

Board Member Comments

Mr. Culpepper thanked Ms. Nisbet and staff for a lovely reception and for her assistance in making this meeting a success.

Ms. Luca commented that it is wonderful to have local directors and boards come to speak and apologized they were overlooked yesterday. She also asked if there was something that could be done pertaining to barrier crimes and asked for a commitment to do something.

Ms. Hornsby commended the Chair for her tremendous work and thanked Ms. Nisbet for her public comment. She further advised we need to remain cognizant of the fact that reducing fuel monies is going to have a big impact on our citizens.

Mr. Brown thanked the chair for a job well done and thanked Ms. Nisbet for her hospitality.

Ms. Brisendine acknowledged an award the Division of Child Support Enforcement had received recognizing their excellent work at the call centers. Mr. Nick Young has done an excellent job with CSE.

She also thanked Ann Hess, Chair of Montgomery County DSS for her letters regarding training available for new local board members. Mr. Martin was asked to check into what training is provided in other states to their local board members.

Strategic Plan-Mr. Martin will provide information on the Strategic Plan prior to the next Board meeting. He advised this is on line and can be viewed on the website ahead of time so members can be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Montgomery County DSS Presentation

Ms. Nesbit spoke on Adult Foster Care. She advised that ALFs are closing down in this area and beds are becoming difficult to find. She stated that the Adult Foster Care Program began in 2005. They have 14 placements. This may also be transitional care, which helps clients become more independent.

Although there are few areas offering adult foster care the need is huge. Low grant amounts deter homes from opening.

Ms. Schultze advised that our current work with DMAS on portable AG's would assure that the money follows the person thus keeping people in their own neighborhoods.

New River Community Action

Terry Smusz, Director advised the New River Community Action has been a well-known proponent of self-sufficiency in the New River Valley since 1965. Their mission is to promote and support the well-being and self-reliance of individuals, families and communities. New River Valley includes the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Radford.

New River Community Action serves over 12,000 individuals in the New River Valley annually plus more than 15,000 residents outside the NRV through NRCA's SHARE program. A copy of this presentation is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

Ms. Brisendine remarked this is a model example of how community action programs are working well with social service agencies.

Early Childhood Development

Kathy Glazer, Director Early Childhood Development spoke to the Board on the benefits of early childhood education, stating that the earlier you make an investment in children the more pay off there will be down the road.

School readiness assures children will have access to mental health and dental services, develop self-esteem and cognitive skills prior to beginning school.

The VA Preschool Initiative is focusing on expansion and aligning health components.

This is an opportunity to coordinate training education for providers and workers and do better data integration across agencies.

Ms. Glazer advised the Board could provide assistance through monitoring programs at the local level.

Ms. Glazer will provide a progress report at the February 2009 meeting of the Board.

Foster Care Bridge Program

Jenny Bolte, Director of Secondary Programs, Dr. Jack Lewis and Larry Lindsey of New River Community College spoke to the Board on the Foster Care Bridge Program with the assistance of Larry Lindsay and Dr. Jack Lewis. This is a collaborative effort between New River Community College and local departments of social services. The purpose is to create a pipeline to college for foster youth by offering positive educational experiences and intensive, wrap around services. A copy of this handout is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

2009 Legislative Proposals

Mr. Martin presented a copy of the 2009 Legislative Proposals to the Board. A copy is attached to the official minutes housed in the central office.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Luca) and seconded (Mr. Hornsby) moved to send a letter to the Secretary of HHR supporting the draft legislative proposal forwarded by the Commissioner. . Motion carried with all in favor. Mr. Martin will prepare the letter for the Chair's signature.

Committee Reports

Poverty- Ms. Luca advised it had been a positive meeting. Marianne McGhee provided information on “Be alright when money’s tight” public awareness proposal. She also discussed the idea with staff of Virginia.gov, the website. They are very interested in hosting this public information campaign. This will likely include easy to use-easy to read information on state taxes, community college applications and eligibility, mental health, state parks as well as social services. Members of the Poverty committee were enthusiastically in support of moving ahead with this initiative. Ms. McGhee will follow up with Virginia.gov website staff and provide additional information to the committee.

Margaret Schultze reported on a new competitive grant from the National Governor Association, which will be awarded to ten states to provide poverty summits next year. Virginia is planning to apply for this funding and support – a \$12,000 grant and technical assistance from Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Lynette Isbell will prepare the grant application, which is due by September 5th. Awards will be announced by September 30.

The Commissioner advised that more people are working but at the same time the poverty rate is increasing. These issues will be highlighted if a grant should be awarded to Virginia. The transportation pod cast (on the DSS website) is an excellent presentation on illustrating the impact of transportation problems on low-income citizens.

Ms. Luca thanked the Commissioner, Ms. McGhee, staff and Jim Schuyler for moving the Board’s ideas from talk to action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

October 15-16, Norfolk LDSS

December 10-11, Prince Edward LDSS

A new meeting schedule will be submitted at the October meeting for approval

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Thanks to Ms. Nesbit and staff, director and board members, New River community College, Ms. Dix, Commissioner Conyers, Ms. Schultze, Richard Martin, Al Wilson and Pat Rengnerth for their outstanding work.

Thanks were also given to Mr. McWhinney, Mr. Steinhauser, Ms. Glazer, and Ms. McGhee for their participation in this meeting.

Thanks to Stephanie Gray for attending our meeting and bring us news on BPRO.

Items for next meeting will include: Prevention Services, CFR Report, and Hornsby Zeller Draft Report Update.

The next meeting will be held in the Eastern Region. Mr. Culpepper was asked to provide assistance since this meeting is in his area of representation.

Adjournment

11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth